

PRESIDENT: The Chair would remind the membership that we are on Final Reading and strictly speaking you are required to be in your seats and the Chair recognizes Senator Harris on the motion made by Senator Warner.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the motion by Senator Warner to return the bill for a specific amendment. I think that we have to be fiscally responsible even if I don't agree with the placement of this particular language in the bill and I voted against it on Select File. I think that we should be fiscally responsible and have the half cent put in there to reflect exactly how much money we are going to have to raise to meet the intentions and the stated future obligation that we are going to have on the part of the State of Nebraska towards the local school districts. I think it would be very improper and on the verge of irresponsible unless we actually put the amount of tax in place that would be required to raise the amount of revenue for the amount of spending that we have obligated the state for in the future. This is a future obligation. It doesn't make any difference if we are talking about retirement programs or school funding, this is a future obligation that you are talking about putting in. Let's be realistic. Once we get this attached, then we will come back and talk about the bill itself and whether we are going to advance it. So I support the motion by Senator Warner. I think it is the only responsible thing to do. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would like to oppose the motion. And I really don't think that it is a matter of fiscal responsibility. I don't think that is what we are talking about at all here today. The matter of fiscal responsibility is the matter of supplying the funds to say we are going to do...or do what we say we are going to do by a particular point in time, by a particular point in time. And we have this session and we have next session to get that job done and we are started already to get that job done with the partial provision in 662 for a sales tax, a 1 percent sales tax. But that doesn't mean by any stretch of the imagination that we have to in a moral sense or that we should in a practical sense go ahead and declare in this